# Earth System Science Center

UAH

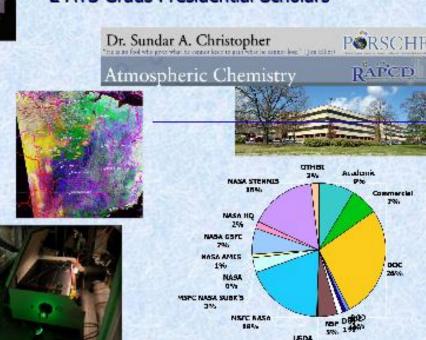
- UAH's largest academic research center
- Emphasis on Remote Sensing Applications
  - Climate, global change
  - Aerosol, ozone, pollution
  - Lightning/Atmospheric Electricity
  - Meso-scale Modeling
  - Tornado/Hurricane
  - Basic Research
  - Instrumentation: design to flight
  - Agriculture/Water Resources
  - Visualization
  - AMSR-E Lead Scientist
- On-site collaboration with NASA/MSFC, NOAA/NWS, USRA
- http://www.nsstc.uah.edu/essc/
- http://www.nsstc.uah.edu/atmos/



- 21 P.I. scientists
- 45 Research Staff
- 11 ATS Faculty



- State Climatologist
  - \$10M FY11 expenditures
- 2 ATS Grads Presidential Scholars







# Atmospheric Electricity and Lightning Research at UAH

Large Group (>25) includes scientists, engineers and students. Capabilities include:

- Instrument development Ground, airborne and space
- Data analysis
- Modeling
- Theory
- The only group with expertise ranging from fundamental lightning physics to space-based monitoring to meteorological applications.
  - a unique combination of physicists, meteorologists and engineers with years of experience is necessary for accomplishing our mission

# Key Research Areas and Accomplishments

### Space-based lightning observations

- Developed the OTD/LIS: continuous operations since 1995. Expected to operate through 2014
- GLM: instrument design and development (with Lockheed Martin); algorithms, risk reduction, verification and training
  - Unique verification capabilities: HAMMA and airborne simulator

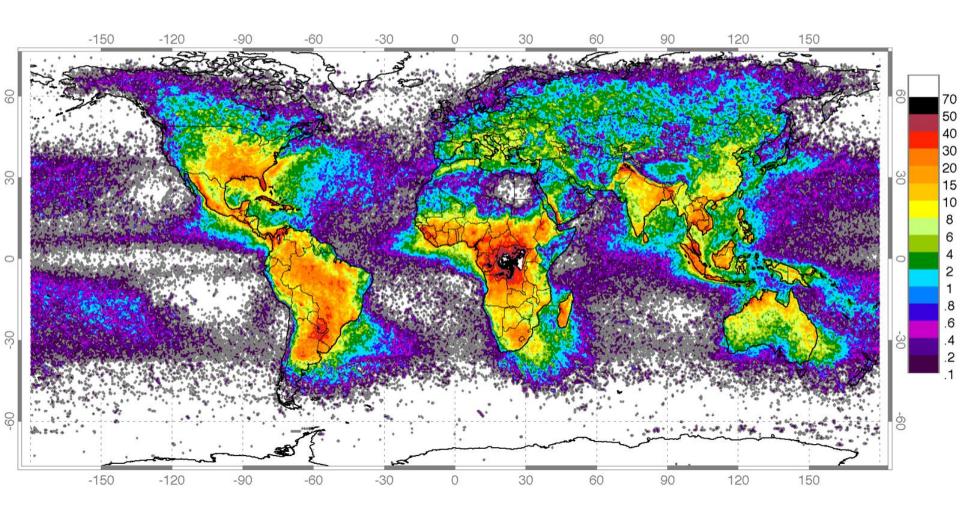
#### Thunderstorm Electrification

- Investigate how storms electrify, determine how lightning measurements can be used for monitoring storm development, etc.
- Extensive use of ground observation capabilities:
  - LMA, multiple parameter, Doppler radars, ground electric field network (new)

## Launch Safety

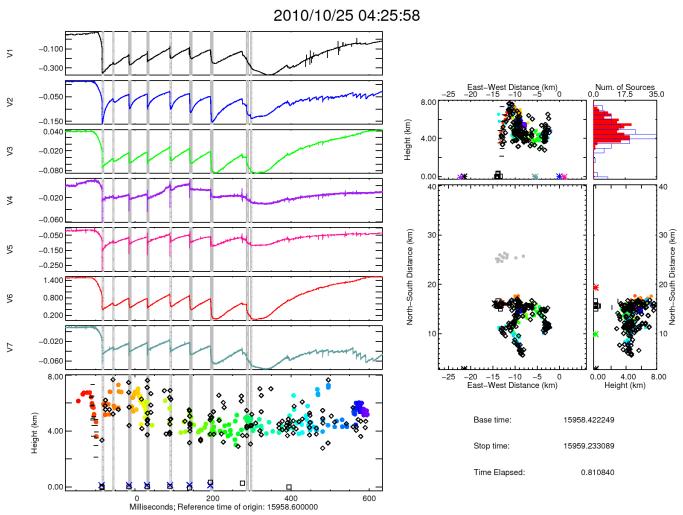
- Serve on the NASA/Air Force Lightning Advisory Panel (revise LCC)
- Developed the ground-based field mill network and conducted two Air-Borne Filed Mill (ABFM) programs
  - Developing an ABFM capability for the Japanese space program

### High Resolution Full Climatology Annual Flash Rate



Global distribution of lightning from a combined nine years of observations of the NASA OTD (4/95-3/00) and LIS (1/98-12/04) instruments

## HAMMA Detections and Locations vs. LIS



## **Newer Initiatives**

- Lightning Physics
  - Lightning initiation and propagation
  - Remote measurements of thunderstorm electric fields
  - High-speed lightning spectroscopy
    - One microsecond lightning spectroscopy enabling the development of the first ever time resolved gas dynamic model of a lightning channel
  - Ice charging study
- LIS-light as part of a proposed CHASER mission (UAH build)
- Terrestrial Gamma Ray Burst investigation
  - High altitude airplane program to simultaneously measure gamma ray bursts and electric filed structure
- Fly's Eye GLM Simulator (FEGS)
  - An optical sensor to be flown on NASA's ER-2 or Global Hawk
  - Designed to simulate GLM observations of lightning from above cloud tops